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OLC 72-0032

10 January 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Edward Braswell, Chief Counsel,
Senate Armed Services Committee, Re Reorganization
of the Intelligence Community

1. Today I showed Mr. Braswell a copy of the 5 November 1971 Presidential memo on the reorganization of the intelligence community and a copy of the President's letter to the Director of 1 November 1971. Mr. Braswell's immediate reaction was to point out the first paragraph on page 3 of the President's memo, instructing the Director to delegate authority to the DDCI for the plans, programs and day-to-day operations of the CIA. Mr. Braswell said this was exactly what Senators Stennis, Symington and others were concerned about, and was completely inconsistent with the oral assurances which I had given to the effect the Director would retain his authority and responsibility for the overall direction of the Agency. I said it was too soon to know exactly how the new arrangements would shake down, but I was morally certain that so long as Mr. Helms was Director, he would not relinquish the reins over the Agency which he had grown up with and which he knew like the back of his hand. I said I saw no problem in Mr. Helms carrying on both responsibilities, since in fact he had already had most of the responsibilities for the community called for in the new directive, but simply lacked the authority to carry them out. I argued that if anything the new directive might clarify these responsibilities thereby making them less rather than more burdensome. Mr. Braswell said "we will just have to see."

2. Mr. Braswell said that in view of the provisions of the above quoted paragraph we could expect the new DDCI to get a very intensive grilling at the time of his confirmation, and the relative authority of the Director and the DDCI under the reorganization plan would be thoroughly examined.

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